(Stearns County)

Sauk Centre January 6th 1862

Friend Mary Dear sir

Your Kind letter of the 22d ult. was duly recieved, but as we have only one mail a week this winter, leaving on Tuesday, (tomorow) I have not written till now you ask if I have lost all my property Answer In June of 1860 I lost all that I was worth, but in consequence of my misfortune the most of my creditors Kindly consented to take up with 75 cents on the dollar, which left me, (allowing that my property could be sold at a fair price) about 400 dollars, but I do not think that I could have then, or now, dispose of it, & pay what I owe, & have that amount left, Still I live in hope of realizing that amount in the end, together with some pay for my labor, my property (Excepting a yoke of Oxen, Wagon, one cow 2 calves & a few Sheep, consists of Land. I am owing 250 dollars for which landed securities are given, & I owing all of which I hired this last Fall, so I could get a team & buy some stock, I still owe my creditors East, something over 300, dollars, that I am under obligation to pay as soon as I can, but I shall of course pay that which

which my friends lent me for present Nesesity first. You very Kindly offer to inquire after to do something for me, but I fear this line will be too late, as most likely you will return home before this reaches you but if not, you speak of E Jackson Phillips & Hunt — Hunt was one of my creditors who gave in 2/100 & he has since lost most of his property W. P. helped me to some means & favored me much some 3 or 4 years ago, & I should have written to him, had I not feared he would think I was presuming too much, he is very Kind & I presume he would be ready to do a little — & Edmond Jackson also, & perhaps I. G. Dodge possibly your father or mother might put in their mite, but you would Know best I have written to S. S. & A. R. Foster, but have not got any answer as yet if you do not get, or send more than 10 or 15 dollars, I think you had better send it in bills on Boston Banks, & only 5 dollars at a time, but if you get one it might be better to send a check, or a Draft might be better still — it is getting dark & I must close under such obligations Yours Lewis Ford

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